

Department of Transportation

The 2004 State Legislature passed two of Governor Lingle's transportation initiatives relating to commercial driver licensing (SB2995) and airport passenger facility charges (HB2523). By enacting these bills, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation will continue to operate its programs at maximum federal funding levels.

The first bill will bring the state law into compliance with federal law and thus make our highways safer by restricting who can obtain or retain a commercial driver license. If the state does not comply with federal law by September 2005, Hawai'i will lose the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program grant and Federal-Aid Highway funds.

The second bill brings the state's airport Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) program into compliance with federal law. Failure to do so could have resulted in termination of the program and jeopardized Hawai'i's ability to receive Federal Airport Improvement Program grants. The PFC program provides public agencies with an additional funding source to expand the airport system.

- Rod Haraga, Director